HYBRID POWER SYSTEM FOR AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE

Abstract of Disclosure

A hybrid power system (10) for supplying power to a load (12) such as an electric vehicle is provided. The power system (10) includes an energy storage device (14) and a fuel cell system (16). When the state of charge of the energy storage device (14) is greater than or equal to a predetermined state of charge, the energy storage device (14) supplies all of the power to the load (12). When the state of charge of the energy storage device (14) falls below the predetermined state of charge, the fuel cell system (16) supplies at least a portion of the power to the load (12). In accordance with one aspect of the invention, the fuel cell system (16) then supplies all of the power to the load (12) as long as the power requirement of the load (12) does not exceed an optimal power output of the fuel cell system (16).

Figures